

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/574,345

Examiner

Kyung H. Shin

Applicant(s)

AU ET AL.

Art Unit

2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/6/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2 and 4-16.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material.
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JEFFREY PWU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claims **1, 2, 4 - 16** are pending. Claims **3, 17 - 22** have been cancelled.

Independent claims are **1, 10, 15**.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's invention discloses a clock apparatus with an initialized base time value. The base time value is initialized when the applicant invention's apparatus is created. A network of multiple systems is configured with each system containing the applicant's invention of a clock apparatus. The clock apparatus is initialized to a base time value for each apparatus. The base time value is defined as the "*crypto-midnight value*" in the applicant's invention.

This base time value is used in the applicant's invention to generate a cryptographic key. The key is generated using the difference between the current time and the base time value to compute a value for the total number of key change periods. This value for the total number of key change periods is used within a predefined algorithm to generate a cryptographic key. The three values: the base time value, the current time, and the generated cryptographic key are identical for each of the applicant invention's

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apparatuses and for the software within each network system containing the applicant invention's apparatus. The three values are synchronized.

Current prior art systems transmits a value between the two network connected systems and this transmitted value would be used as the base time value in the generation of any cryptographic key. The applicant's invention does not require the transmission of any data between the two network connected systems in order to guarantee the generation of a cryptographic key that is identical for both of the network connected systems.

After extensive searching and analysis of prior art in light of the Applicant's claimed invention, the Examiner finds that the referenced prior art does not teach or suggest in detail the invention's disclosure in combination with all the elements of each independent claim. So as indicated by the above statements, Applicant's arguments have been considered persuasive, in light of the claim limitations as well as the enabling portions of the specification.

3. The dependent claims further limit the independent claims and are considered allowable on the same basis as the independent claims as well as for the further limitations set forth. Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays,

should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyung H. Shin whose telephone number is (571) 272-3920. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

K H S
Kyung H Shin
Patent Examiner
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KHS
5/17/06